

HISTORY OF WILLIAM BROADHEAD

William Broadhead, the immigrant ancestor, was born in Coventry, Warwickshire, England, on the 28th of June 1806, the son of Robert and Judith Dakin Broadhead. He was christened in the St. Michael's Parish at Coventry (Church of England) on the 15th of July 1806. He was married to Sarah Golding at Coventry on the 20th of May 1827. She was born in Coventry on the 20th of June 1800, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Enoch Golding and was christened in the St. Michael's Parish at Coventry on the 10th of July 1800. To this union was born eight children--seven sons and one daughter: John, John Enoch, David, Elizabeth, William, Robert, Thomas and Jabez. Four of the boys died young.

Our Broadhead ancestors in England were all weavers by trade.

David has this to say about his father William Broadhead. "His parents being poor he received but little education. He was a sober, honest man and generally respected by those who knew him. He was early impressed with religious ideas and attached himself to the Methodists, a sect very popular at that time. He zealously advocated their doctrine for several years. In the winter of 1844 an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints came into the town where he was living and commenced to advocate the faith of the Saints. My father, having investigated the principles of the Church, became convinced that they were true and on the 22nd of December 1844 was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church by Thomas Day. (His wife, Sarah, was baptized on the 6th of January 1845 and confirmed same day by Thomas Day.) Shortly afterwards he was ordained an Elder in the Church and was appointed to preside over the Branch of the Church in Coventry, which position he held until the Winter of 1850. He was a zealous laborer in the cause of truth and whenever opportunity offered, he preached the Gospel in the neighboring villages and was the means in the hands of God of bringing many into the Church."

The Coventry Branch records give very little information but they do show that William Broadhead was President of that Branch on the 7th of March 1847 and John M. Barker was the Clerk. Another entry states that on the 3rd of September 1848 Brother Smith was discontinued as book agent for the branch and Brother Broadhead was appointed.

William Broadhead's third son, David, was married at Coventry on the 29th of January 1850 to Harriet Betts, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Bennet Betts. David and Harriet sailed for America on the ship "Josiah Bradley" on the 18th of February 1850. They crossed the plains in 1853 and settled at Nephi, Utah.

In January 1851 William and Sarah along with their three remaining children, Elizabeth, Robert and Jabez, left their home in Bricklin Lane, Much Park Street, Coventry, Warwickshire, England, enroute for America. They sailed from Liverpool, England on Thursday, January 30, 1851, on the ship "Ellen Maria" under Captain Whitmore. There were 378 souls on board and this was the 54th company of Saints embarking for Zion. The Church shipping records show the Broadhead Party as follows: William, age 44, ribbon weaver; Sarah, age 49, wife; Elizabeth, age 18; Eleanor, age 12; Jabez, age 10; Jane, age 17. After setting sail the ship was beset by adverse winds and was forced to drop anchor in the River Mercy until the morning of February 2, 1851, when they again set sail. On the 11th of February the ship cleared the Irish Sea. The company was under the direction of George D. Watts and meetings were held every Sabbath and on different occasions during the week. Apostle Orson Pratt and family were part of the company. During the course of the voyage there were three marriages, four births and five deaths. One of the deaths being the fifteen month old daughter of Apostle Orson Pratt. The ship arrived at New Orleans on the 6th of April 1851. On April 9th most of the company left New Orleans for St. Louis on the "Alexander Scott," one of the largest boats on the Mississippi. They arrived in St. Louis on the 16th of April, 1851. Here William and his family remained until the following Spring when they moved on to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

William Broadhead's only daughter, Elizabeth, was married in March 1852 to John Title Denton, son of Thomas and Sarah Title Denton. John and Elizabeth, along with their two daughters, came to Utah several years later and settled in Nephi, Utah.

On the 9th of June 1853, William and Sarah with their two sons, Robert and Jabez, left Winter Quarters for Utah in the Daniel A. Miller and the John W. Cooley Companies. On the 15th of August, John W. Cooley listed his Company at the Sweetwater, where the names of the four appear, but no wagons, horses, cattle, or sheep are listed for them. They arrived in Salt Lake City on the 9th of September 1853. This ox train company included the last of the Saints from Pottawattamie County, Iowa and consisted of 283 souls, 70 wagons, 27 horses, 470 head of cattle and 153 sheep.

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